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DIFFERENTIAL DIAGNOSIS OF INFLUENZA AND ACUTE CATARRES OF THE RESPIRATORY TRACT

M. I. Sokolov Cand Med Sci

Laboratory methods are of great help in diagnosing influenza. These methods include the hemagglutination reaction as well as rhinoscopic and hematological tests. In addition to these methods, USSR investigators produced others which permit making a diagnosis within the first days of the disease.

An original method of detecting viruses and antibodies was developed by Sergiyev, Demina, and Ryazantseva. It is based on the capacity of bacteria to adsorb viruses and their antiger. Bacteria which had adsorbed the virus aggultinate on mixing with an immume serum which is specific for the virus. In view of the large size of bacteria in comparison with virus particles, combination of the latter with antibodies becomes visible under a magnifying glass because not only virus particles but also the bacterial cells which had adsorbed them agglutinate in the presence of specific antivirus serum.

The agglutination reaction of bacteria loaded with virus (AVB) that has been proposed by the investigators mentioned above yields positive results in the diagnosis of measles and influenza. It is specific and more sensitive than the reactions of precipitation and hemagglutination.

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